

Contact: Tressia Webb 573-888-6664

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$ 59,800.00 TO PEMISCOT COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

In a Mock Check presentation ceremony on January 9, 2006 Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri, announced the funding of \$59,800.00 to Pemiscot County Port Authority.

The mock check represents approval of a Rural Business Enterprise Grant to construct a new turnout on the existing railroad owned by the Port. This project will benefit a small and emerging company located in the Hayti Industrial Park with the creation of 10 new jobs.

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson said, "In rural America, our transportation infrastructure is vital to getting our manufactured and agricultural products to market. A new rail turnout will enhance the ability of the Pemiscot County Port Authority to serve Southern Missouri. I am excited that USDA Rural Development has included this project in their plans and look forward to working with our U.S. Senators to fund more investments into our rural communities such as this one."

Branum said "I would like to personally thank everyone involved in this project. I have been involved with the Port since its inception and I am very proud to be able continue that involvement in a project that will help with economic development for generations to come. Financing essential services in support of a community is consistent with USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's commitment to the future of rural communities."

"The Port is very grateful for this USDA-RD funding, which will provide needed economic stimulus to Pemiscot County. Installation of the rail turnout switch will enable access to rail shipping for a local operation handling agricultural products. Use of the shipping terminal for transportation of other products is being actively promoted. This will stimulate the creation of both direct and indirect employment locally. None of this would have been practical without these grant funds from USDA-RD", stated David Madison, Executive Director of the Pemiscot County Port Authority.

Branum added, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project.



1st row: Art Cole; Cindy Northern; David Madison, Executive Director; Greg Branum; and Tressia Webb
2nd row: Terry Luetkemeyer and Rich Cochran

Anyone interested in obtaining regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Tresia Webb, Rural Development Manager, at the Kennett Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 704 North Bypass, Kennett, MO 63857 or by calling 573-888-6664.

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